



January Hero Profile 2019



Children’s Bill of Rights #1: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each live in a stable, comfortable home surrounded by parents, family and other caring adults who nurture us throughout childhood.

JANUARY’S HERO
Sam Crouse

PASSION
Supporting children and families facing homelessness

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE SAM
Caring

NOMINATED BY
ECHO Homeless Shelter

Sam Crouse is a champion for children, being there for some of our most vulnerable families living in crisis mode as they wait for permanent housing.

As an advocate for children at ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization), Sam works closely with little ones and families as they try to put their lives back together. ECHO is a 50-bed emergency and transitional shelter that strives to create an atmosphere of “home” with its unique family units. In addition to providing a place to stay, ECHO runs programs geared toward both adults and children, including the Raising a Reader early literacy initiative, art appreciation tutoring and garden education.

Sam started volunteering at ECHO when she was in high school! She has since moved on to a staff position and in her tenure there since, she has helped hundreds of parents and their kids find the resources they need to become self-sufficient and thrive during an often disorienting and traumatic time. Peers and co-workers say Sam has a special light that gets brighter when she’s interacting with kids, with whom she checks in daily to see how things are going, whether they need anything and just to provide a listening

ear and comforting presence. She’s even known to spend her own personal time getting each child a costume of his/her choice for Halloween—what a spooktacular gift!

Much like ECHO’s mission, Sam firmly believes in empowering individuals in SLO County to make positive change by providing food, shelter, and supportive services. But she doesn’t stop there. Sam also mentors at a pregnancy counseling center, visits home-bound seniors and is a Sunday school teacher— spreading her light even further throughout our community.

**Thank you, Sam.
You are a true Hands-On Hero.**

Look for more on all of our Hands-On Heroes on COE-TV channel 19!



Hands-On Heroes is a special recognition of dedicated individuals who believe in and support the Children’s Bill of Rights, an achievable vision that our children grow up with healthy minds, bodies and spirits that enable them to maximize their potential. This program is coordinated by First 5 San Luis Obispo County in collaboration with local organizations that make a difference in the lives of children in our community. To find out more about First 5 and the Children’s Bill of Rights, please visit first5slo.org.



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